

Annotated Bibliography

Primary Sources

Archives, Museums, and Historical Sites

Moore's Memorial Library, Christiana, Pennsylvania, April 17, 2021.

The Moore's library provides great pictures and original documents relating to the Christiana Resistance. The library also owns the original horn that Eliza Parker blew at the Resistance. We visited the library with Darlene Colon, who is the president of the Christiana Historical Society. Two of the documents we used on the website from the collection are the W. A. Jackson letter, and the George Steele recollection.

The Christiana Underground Railroad Center, Christiana Pennsylvania, April 17, 2021.

The Christiana Underground Railroad center, which used to be the Zercher's hotel where Edward Gorsuch got off the train in Christiana, is located right next to the markers honoring William Parker, the Resisters, and Edward Gorsuch. The center provides great information about the Christiana Resistance, and displays artifacts from the excavation at the site of the Parker house.

The Christiana Resistance site, Christiana Pennsylvania, April 17, 2021

We went to the site of the Resistance in Christiana, Pennsylvania which sits on private property – an Amish farm. It is disappointing to visit, because there is only a small roadside marker. Yet, the location is a beautiful place where a national monument could educate many people about the Resistance.

Published Primary Sources

The Baltimore Sun. September 22, 1849. [Newspapers.com]

This article from provides two good runaway slave ads which were utilized in a slide show on the Escape page of our website.

"One Hundred Dollar Reward." Baltimore Sun. November 2, 1849. [Newspapers.com]

This advertisement from the Baltimore Sun talks about a fugitive slave woman named Eliza Pinkney. This runaway ad can be found on the Escape in the Runaway Ads slide show.

"Two Hundred Dollar Reward." Baltimore Sun. November 14, 1849. [Newspaper.com]

This runaway advertisement for a fugitive male slave named Toby Edinsen can be found in the slide show on the Escape page.

“The Christiana Outrage.” *The Daily Republic*. September 15, 1851. [Newspapers.com]

This article which was clipped from the *Philadelphia Bulletin*, a Democrat newspaper described the Christiana Resistance in a pro-slavery way. Some of these details about the event were not true, such as that one of the fugitive slaves shot and killed his own master. Newspapers around the country were trying to communicate their own points of view to the public to change their opinions.

“The Christiana Tragedy—Resistance to the National Law.” *The York Gazette*. September 16, 1851. [Newspapers.com]

This piece, from the York Gazette, provides a fiery Democratic take on the Christiana Resistance. It shows how passionate pro-slavery men and women were relating to their beliefs. It also shows that they weren’t afraid to make their opinions public. This article headline was used in the collage picture on the thesis page.

“The Christiana Outrage.” *The Baltimore Sun*. September 17, 1851. [Newspapers.com]

This article, written by a pro-slavery newspaper just six days after the Christiana Resistance, celebrates officers for arresting anyone at random for involvement in the event. This article also provides details about the arrest of Samuel Williams who spied on the Gorsuch party and informed William Parker that they were coming. The article also lists the names of six black people who were found and arrested while hiding in the woods.

“History of Christiana Tragedy” *The Baltimore Sun*. September 18, 1851. [Accessible Archives]

This article, which is a letter from John Gorsuch, the son of Edward Gorsuch, describes the Christiana Resistance from John’s point of view. He writes about his father’s slaves who escaped and his family’s pursuit of them.

“Great Excitement in Baltimore.” *The Buffalo Express*. September 19, 1851. [Newspapers.com]

This article provides both sides of the argument about the Christiana Resistance. The article provided a dateline from Baltimore on September 15, 1851 talking about the people taking up a resolution to catch anyone involved with the “Outrage.” Also, this article provided commentary about the resolution from an anti-slavery point of view, showing both points of view about the event side-by-side.

“Attempt to Arrest a Fugitive Slave.” *The Advocate*. September 18. 1851 [Newspapers.com]

This article describes the Christiana Resistance from an anti-slavery point of view. The article only provides the facts about the event.

“Awful Outrage”. *The Baltimore Patriot*. September 20, 1851. [Newspapers.com]

This article, which was reprinted in the Poughkeepsie Journal, providing a pro-slavery view on the Christiana Resistance, giving details of who was injured in the battle.

“The Christiana Affair: More About the Christiana Affair.” *Frederick Douglass’ Paper*. September 25, 1851. [Newspapers.com]

Frederick Douglass was a fugitive slave from Maryland who became one of the most well-known abolitionists of the 19th century. The article includes an account of the bloody event from J. S. Gorsuch, the son of Edward Gorsuch, who was killed. We noticed from this article that *Bloody Dawn* by Thomas Slaughter had a very similar account of the same event. This version provided a great first-hand account of the event.

“The Christiana Riot” *The Liberator*. September 26, 1851. [Accessible Archives]

This article by the Liberator, a leading abolitionist newspaper, blames the kidnapers for the outcome of the Christiana Resistance.

“Treason in Pennsylvania.” *The National Era*. November 27, 1851. [Newspapers.com]

This fiery anti-slavery article describes the disdain the newspaper has for the Christiana Treason Trial.

“Christiana Treason Trial.” *The Baltimore Sun*. November 29, 1851. [Newspapers.com]

This section from a Baltimore Sun newspaper writes about the prosecution’s statement. They write how the prosecution claimed the Christiana Resistance was a threat to the Union and the Republic.

“The Christiana Treason Trials.” *Vermont Watchman and State Journal*. December 4, 1851. [Newspaper.com]

This section, from the Vermont Watchman describes the questions asked to each possible juror deciding the Christiana Trial. It communicates to the reader a good firsthand account of the court system.

“The Christiana Treason Trials.” *New York Times*. December 09, 1851. [Newspaper.com]

The New York Times wrote about how crowded and packed the courtroom was. This section also talks about the defense attorney's statement, regarding the U.S. Marshal Kline's character.

"From Philadelphia." *The Lancaster Examiner*. December 10, 1851. [Newspapers.com]

This report from Philadelphia provides great insight into how publicized this trial was. The article talks about how the courtroom was packed together, and how lucky the people were to get in.

"The Christiana Treason Trials." *The National Era*. December 11, 1851. [Newspapers.com]

This summary of the treason trial of Castner Hanway was written by a Washington DC anti-slavery newspaper. This summary provided a day-by-day summary of the trial.

Ancestry.com

Ancestry provided the 1850 census where we can see William and Eliza Parker living in Lancaster County with some of their kids and Eliza's sister and her husband.

Robbins. J. James. *Report of the Trial of Castner Hanway for Treason in the Resistance of the Fugitive Slave Law of September, 1851: Christiana Treason Trial*. Digital Bookshelf: [HathiTrust]

This report of the Christiana Treason Trial provided each side's opening and closing statements to the court regarding Castner Hanway's case. It also provided testimony from the trial which gave us better insight into Samuel Williams's role in the Christiana Resistance.

William Parker. "The Freedman's Story Part 1&2." *The Atlantic*. February, 1866.

<https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/1866/03/the-freedmans-story-continued/308738/>

William Parker's memoir is in two parts, but this annotation focuses on part two about the resistance. Parker, an escaped slave from Maryland, was the leader of the Christiana Resistance. His memoir about the event was written after Civil War. Parker led the resistance at his house where he was harboring the fugitive slaves being hunted. He also described some of the people who helped him in his escape from Christiana, such as Frederick Douglass who sheltered him before he moved to Canada.

Christiana Resistance Collection. Lancasterhistory.org, March 2001.

This collection of digitized pictures and documents relating to the Christiana Resistance provided some of our featured primary sources, like the W.A Jackson letter, the George Steele recollection, and

numerous photos of William Parker's house. All of the material originally came from the Moores Memorial Library in Christiana, Pennsylvania.

Still, William. *The Underground Railroad*. Oxford Benediction Classics, 2008.

This book, written by William Still, the head of the Underground Railroad in Philadelphia, is 776 pages long and was originally written in 1872. We focused on the entry about the Christiana Riot which was mixed together with newspaper articles and personal recollections. The entry provides more in-depth details, such as showing the differences between Whig newspapers describing the event and Democratic newspapers.

Secondary Sources

Interviews

Zoom interview with Fergus Bordewich, February 25, 2021.

We interviewed the author of the best-selling book *Bound for Canaan* (See annotation below) Fergus Bordewich. Bordewich provided great responses about the Underground Railroad and the Christiana Resistance. He gave us insights on the myths and realities of the Underground Railroads communication and operations. This interview was recorded and small portions of it were put into our website

Zoom interview with Michele Parker Samuels, April 14, 2021.

Michele Parker Samuels is the great-great granddaughter of William and Eliza Parker, the main resisters in the Christiana Resistance. Mrs. Samuels provided great answers to questions about how she found out about William Parker and who William and Eliza Parker were. This interview was recorded and put into our website in small portions.

Interview with Dalene Colon. Christiana, Pennsylvania, April 17, 2021.

We went to the site of the Christiana Resistance and also to the Moores Memorial library where we were guided by the head of the Christiana Historical Society, Darlene Colon. Ms. Colon is a descendant of one of the resisters at Christiana, Ezekiel Thompson. She provided good details about the horn. They believe they have the original horn which Eliza Parker blew, donated by a descendant of the Pownall family who owned the farm where the Parker house stood.

Published Secondary Sources

“The Christiana Riot Historical Marker”. *ExplorePAHistory*.

<https://explorepahistory.com/hmarker.php?markerId=1-A-109>

ExplorePAHistory.com provides great facts about the Christiana Resistance. The entry describes some of the escaped slaves were living in William Parker’s house. When Gorsuch found out about this, he came to take them back. Once the household was informed of this, Parker’s wife, Eliza, blew a horn notifying 50 to 100 armed African American neighbors to drop what they were doing and come help. This led to Edward Gorsuch’s death on that day.

Bentley, Judith. *Dear Friend: Thomas Garrett & William Still, Collaborators on the Underground Railroad*. New York: Cobblehill Books/Dutton, 1997.

Dear Friend is a compelling story of Thomas Garrett and William Still writing to each other through the era of the Underground Railroad. The book shows how Garrett and Still freed many slaves. *Dear Friend* exhibits the way Garrett and Still were able to communicate to each other by writing letters. The book also breaks down many impactful events including the Christiana Resistance and multiple Anti-Slavery Society meetings.

Blackett, R.J.M. "Freeman to the Rescue" In David W. Blight, ed. *Passages to Freedom: The Underground Railroad in History and Memory*. New York: Harper Collins, 2004, pp 136-137.

This essay about vigilance committees, which were the organized branch of the Underground Railroad, provides great information, specifically about the Philadelphia Vigilance Committee. It also talks about how other vigilance committees formed, such as the Boston and New York vigilance committees.

Bordewich, Fergus. *Bound for Canaan: The Epic Story of the Underground Railroad, Americas First Civil Rights Movement*. New York: First Amistad, 2006.

Fergus Bordewich is a very successful author who has written many history books. *Bound for Canaan* provides great stories about fugitives in the underground railroad, and how its conductors operated. The book also debunks myths about the communication used in the underground. Many stories showed the different ways of communication that went into the Underground Railroad. These stories included a sea captain in 1844 who was helping slaves escape from Florida and who got his hand branded, William Still who reunited with his once enslaved brother, and Harriet Tubman who escaped slavery and then went back to save her family.

Clinton, Catherine. “Slavery is War: Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad.” In David W. Blight, ed. *Passages to Freedom: The Underground Railroad in History and Memory*. New York: Harper Collins, 2004, pp 195-210.

The essay written by Catherine Clinton, a professor of American history at the University of Texas dives into the life of Harriet Tubman in the 1850s, and her time working for the Union army in the early 1860s. Clinton also provides information about the use of propaganda by both Northerners and Southerners to communicate their points of view to the public. The essay also debunks myths, and provides facts about how Harriet Tubman operated as a conductor in the underground railroad.

Delle, James. "In 1851, a Maryland Farmer Tried to Kidnap Free Blacks in Pennsylvania. He Wasn't Expecting the Neighborhood to Fight Back." *Smithsonian*, 2020

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/how-humble-stone-carries-memory-1851-african-american-uprising-against-fugitive-slave-law-180974003/>

This essay in *Smithsonian Magazine* provides many facts about what happened during the Christiana Resistance. For example, it explains that the events at Christiana were the result of the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850. We also used a great illustration of Eliza Parker blowing a horn from this article in our video.

Dunbar, Armstrong, Erica. *She Came to Slay: The Life and Times of Harriet Tubman*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2019.

She Came to Slay is a book that shows the hardships and struggles that one of the most famous conductors of the underground railroad had to face. The book also provides examples of the different types of communication Harriet Tubman used, such as when she was trying to rescue her sister's children, she sent a verbal message to a trusted colleague who got the message to Harriet's nieces that she would be coming to save them. The author, Erica Dunbar is a college professor at Rutgers, and has written multiple books about the antebellum years of America.

Forbes, Ella. *But We Have No Country: The 1851 Christiana, Pennsylvania Resistance*. Cherry Hill, New Jersey: African Homestead Legacy Publishers, 1998

Ella Forbes is a professor at the African American Studies at Temple University in Philadelphia. The book, *But We Have No Country*, provides great pictures of the families of the Parker's and the Gorsuch's, as well as the markers that honor the Resistance. Also, it gives good details about William Parker and his self-defense organization in Lancaster.

Hensel, W. U. *The Christiana Riot and Treason Trials of 1851: An Historical Sketch*. Lancaster, Pa: The New Era Printing Company, 1911.

This historical sketch, marking the sixtieth anniversary of the Christiana Resistance of 1851, provides great details about the entire event, going in depth in the events leading up to, during and after the resistance. The sketch helps get a better grasp on the treason trial by providing the names of each individual person arrested and charged with treason.

Horton, James Oliver. "A Crusade for Freedom: William Still and the Real Underground." In David W. Blight, ed. *Passages to Freedom: The Underground Railroad in History and Memory*. New York: Harper Collins, 2004, pp 175-194.

William Still, the son of a fugitive mother and a freed father became one of the heads of the Underground Railroad in Philadelphia. In the essay, written by James Oliver Horton, a professor of history, he provides information about the rise of free black leaders in the 1850s, including William Still. Still kept a journal of all the fugitive slaves he encountered at the Vigilance Committee in Philadelphia, including an account of him meeting his long-lost brother who bought his way to freedom.

Hudson, Blaine, *Encyclopedia of the Underground Railroad*, 2014.

This book provides great in-depth information about the Underground Railroad. Also, this book gives information about the passing and the effect of the Fugitive Slave Law of 1850.

Katz, Jonathan. *Resistance at Christiana: The Fugitive Slave Rebellion, Christiana Pennsylvania, September 11, 1851*. New York: Thomas Y. Crowell Company, 1974.

Katz's book shows the Christiana Resistance in a new light. He uses many firsthand accounts from people at the event to tell a different part of the story in each chapter. Using accounts from both sides of the resistance, it helps piece together the story even better. It shows the propaganda used by pro- and anti-slavery men and women to tell the story based on their own ideologies.

Kopaczewski, James. "Christiana Riot Trial." Encyclopedia of Greater Philadelphia 2015
<https://philadelphiaencyclopedia.org/archive/christiana-riot-trial/>

This Encyclopedia offers good place to look at for reliable facts about the Christiana Treason Trial. It is very factual with details to describe the events that occurred after Christiana.

National Park Service. *Underground Railroad: Official National Park Handbook*. Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data: 1998

The *Underground Railroad* is a handbook written by the National Park Service. This book debunks myths, and shows ways that the Underground Railroad operated.

Rettew, L.D. *Treason at Christiana*. Publication Date: 2006.

L.D. Rettew's book provides great information about the Christian Resistance. He goes into detail about the aftermath of the battle. Rettew was a local historian from Christiana.

Slaughter, Thomas. *Bloody Dawn: The Christiana Riot and Racial Violence in the Antebellum North*. New York: Oxford Press, 1991.

This book is about the Christiana Riot (Resistance) of 1851 which happened in Lancaster Pennsylvania between fugitive slaves and their master and the U.S Marshal. The book shows that both sides used spies who communicated with letters and messengers. The riot began with a call to action. Fugitive slave Eliza Parker blew a horn to communicate danger. Dozens of armed neighbors showed up. Their action showed that anti-slavery men and women were ready to fight for freedom.